

October 1954

Volume 33

Number 390

LABOUR ORGANISER

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One successful method

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DERBY BOROUGH LABOUR PARTY require Assistant Full-time Agent to work under the directions of the Borough Party Secretary. Duties will consist mainly of field work. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Derby Labour Party, 29 Charnwood Street, Derby, to whom they should be returned not later than 22nd October, 1954.

THIRSK AND MALTON C.L.C.—Applications are invited for the post of full-time Secretary-Agent, man or woman. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms are obtainable from J. Brocklebank, Rose Cottage, Dishforth, Thirsk, Yorks., to whom they must be returned, giving two referees, not later than 16th October, 1954.

SOUTH EAST DERBYSHIRE C.L.C.—Applications are invited for the post of Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement, but a commencing salary of £550 will be paid to a suitable applicant. Application forms are obtainable from Mr. A. West, 83 Manor Road, Borrowash, Derbyshire, to whom they should be returned not later than Saturday, 30th October, 1954.

READING BOROUGH LABOUR PARTY. — Applications are invited for the post of Secretary-Agent for this important area embracing two marginal constituencies. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms from Mr. H. Grierson, The Labour Hall, 56 Minster Street, Reading, Berkshire, to whom they must be returned not later than Tuesday, 26th October, 1954.

NORTH ISLINGTON C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of full-time Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms obtainable from Councillor Miss M. E. Bull, 9 Pemberton Gardens, London, N.19, to whom they should be returned not later than Saturday, 30th October, 1954.

DONCASTER C.L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Compact constituency. Tory majority 300 in 1951. Application forms from the Secretary, Doncaster Labour Party, 7 North Bridge Road, Doncaster, to whom they must be returned not later than 22nd October, 1954.

NORTH KENSINGTON C.L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of full-time Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from Mr. T. Hildersley, 92 Labroke Grove, London, W.11, to whom they must be returned not later than 19th October 1954.

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THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

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OCTOBER, 1954

PRICE FIVEPENCE

Any Questions Please?

by PETER MOYES

AT this time of the year many parties begin arranging 'Any Questions?' meetings for the winter. Any public meeting requires preparation and forethought, and this is especially true of the 'Any Questions?' variety.

GOOD ATTENDANCE

A good attendance is a prime ingredient for a successful meeting. The essentials for this—good advertising and forceful sale of tickets—have been fully described in past issues of the *Organiser*. We are only concerned here, therefore, with the surprising number of other details connected with organising 'Any Questions?'

In passing, however, a plea can usefully be made for dynamic and brighter advertising. Don't just advertise an 'Any Questions?'. Use imagination—appealing slogans like 'Quick-fire Quiz' or 'Popular Radio Series'—when designing handbills and posters.

To start with be clear about the aims of your 'Any Questions?' We run them to introduce and provide a platform for the candidate; to create social and political activity; and to raise funds—or at any rate cover costs.

Properly run they can be a subtle but effective means of propaganda and publicity. To be successful they must be interesting, provocative, spontaneous and amusing.

Membership of the team is all important, so arrange it with care. Limit the

number to three or four, including the candidate—plus the question master. Choose a representative team and try to strike a balance. For example, include a woman for the 'women's angle', a humorist for amusement, a councillor for local government and the candidate for propaganda.

For goodness sake avoid including the Party's stock speakers merely because 'they always do the public speaking'. Be tactful but firm on this. And remember—orators are not required.

Bear in mind, too, the type of questions expected when picking the team. There are roughly four types of question—political questions, questions of a general nature, frivolous questions and that inevitable personal question ranging from a request for legal advice to Mrs. Jones's cat's. Try to choose the team so that between them they can cope with any likely question.

LIKELY PEOPLE

Sometimes difficulty is experienced in persuading likely people to take part—often on the grounds that they don't know enough about politics. It is wise to explain at the outset, therefore, that they have been invited to participate as part of a team and not for their individual political brilliance.

Team members should be well briefed as to what is expected of them. We send them specially prepared notes* setting out details. These include instructions to answer questions distinctly and slowly and to speak naturally as if in conversation.

Our motto for team members is *Bright*

and Brief, a limit of three to four minutes being set on any one member's answer. We ask them to be provocative towards the candidate so as to focus attention on him; to try and be amusing; to be tactful, where necessary; and, above all, not to shout or make speeches.

If a team member can't answer a particular question then a wink at the chairman or a 'no comment' gets over the difficulty.

Small points these, but very important nevertheless.

QUESTION MASTER

Next, the question master. His job is all-important and it is surprising how few make really good ones. Choose a member experienced as chairman, with agreeable appearance and a quiet, but firm, manner. He, too, should be fully briefed beforehand.

The question master should repeat all questions to give the team a moment to collect their thoughts. He should select a fair cross-section for answer—as a guide we suggest that out of ten questions three or four should be political, three funny and three or four of a general nature.

An important duty of the question master is, of course, to keep the team in order. He should call on each member to speak first on at least one question and summarise the team's answers if necessary. Make sure he understands that his job is not to answer questions.

Experience indicates that either sufficient questions are not forthcoming—we ask for them written and allow occasional oral ones, sometimes as 'supplementaries'—or they tend to be of one type.

Be prepared for this. I always provide the question master with four envelopes containing questions of each type so that he can use them for 'balance' or to help out if others run short. Naturally the questions from the audience are used if possible.

The question master should make sure that questions—with the exception of the one I mention later—are unknown to the team in order to preserve the important element of spontaneity.

Too often the Press are neglected. A good-sized audience may attend, but many more will read a Press report. Important rule then—invite the Press or at least send a long report in ('long' to allow for cutting!).

Carefully stage-manage the publicity. If

my candidate wishes to make a public statement on a particular topic I make sure a suitable question will be asked. This 'Press question' is arranged beforehand and is the only one not answered spontaneously.

The Press are tactfully asked to feature the reply to this question—and usually do! Other team members, for their part, are asked to give the candidate a 'lead in' and then allow him a clear field. It is permissible for the candidate to speak a little longer than normal on this question.

Yes, it does pay to organise—especially with the Press!

Incidentally, a good write-up is often given on 'Any Questions?' mainly, I believe, because they allow scope for bright, descriptive reporting.

Here now are a few general points:

First, the length. The optimum time for a session appears to be between 1 and 1¼ hours. Certainly no longer than 1½ hours in any circumstances.

Second, an interval. A short interval provides a pleasant break. Sometimes it is possible and advantageous to provide light refreshment speedily and efficiently. Speed and efficiency are the keynotes here though.

Third, 'quickies'. This is an innovation borrowed from 'Twenty Questions'. The question master selects an amusing question as a 'quickie', asking each member of the team in turn for a very short answer. These are usually popular with the audience, especially after a serious question.

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Fourth, atmosphere. Ensure, if possible that a friendly atmosphere prevails. Christian names should be the order of the day. It helps if name cards featuring christian names can be placed at the front of each team member.

Last, platform seating. The question master should sit at right angles to the team and audience at the end of the team's table. He should be two or three feet away from the nearest team member as the latter—human nature being what it is!—is often prone to 'cheat' by looking at the questions.

The technique described is suitable with slight modification, for use in other types of panel games. Socially a 'Twenty Questions' can be most successful and enjoyable. We get over the difficulty of

(Continued on back page)

QUAIR'S PAGE

Situation is Now Vacant

AGENTS and would-be agents who intend to apply for appointment in the vacancies shortly to be filled in the constituencies of New Brokenrise and Birkrock should know, and are hereby warned, that they will be up against very strong competition.

The earnest and capable young agent, Bob Pusshon, wants a move and intends to get one as soon as he can. He rejoiced two months ago when he was appointed in a spreading County Constituency in the southern part of the country. A country lad himself, with a good record of Party service in his native Worcestershire, he went down to his new job full of fervour and encouraged by the fact that he had a mere 6,000 Tory majority to conquer by hard work.

HE meant to stick to it until that constituency was listed in the newspapers as "Labour Gain". He was not troubled that membership was recorded at a bare thousand and finance was meagre. He had his own successful efforts in recruiting members and raising funds back at home ready for adaptation to his new surroundings, and furthermore he is a devoted reader of the *Labour Organiser* from which he regularly adds to his stock of ideas. Yet, after two months only, he feels compelled to change his job.

Bob has sorrowfully decided to quit because he has met the Insoluble Problem. He has read all about the difficulties, frankly disclosed by our Editor, that need to be tackled in New Brokenrise and Birkrock; he does not quail at the picture of them. Nothing, he is sure, in these constituencies can equal his unique Problem; it has baffled and beaten him and therefore he must go.

The mental torment he is suffering all came out of his attendance last week at the monthly meeting of the Mugford Parva Local Labour Party, his first visit to this important body.

MUGFORD PARVA is a small market town of about 1,600 electors. Bob had learnt that the Local Labour Party boasted of being the original Labour organisation in the constituency; it was

formed 34 years ago by its present chairman. Office records, which Bob inherited, showed that this year Mugford had taken 20 membership cards, 16 men's and 4 women's.

Looking forward to meeting the parent of the Movement in the constituency, Bob drove his little car to Mugford, 15 miles from his centre. Of course, it was a wet evening. Five depressed Victorians gathered in the damp and dreary village hall.

The veteran chairman took the Agent by the lapel of his coat and conducted him to a dim corner of the room. He said, "Be careful what you say tonight, Mr. Wassername; this is a very peculiar place."

So Bob agreed to step warily. At the end of an hour spent in the transaction of no business he was asked to "address the meeting". He did his stuff manfully and according to the book. New membership, sale of literature, prospects of a Women's Section and a League of Youth branch, a canvass to get some dependable record of supporters prior to the election. The state of depression was unrelieved.

THEN the chairman addressed the Agent. All he had said might be alright in other places, but it was no use in Mugford Parva. They didn't canvass there, they knew who was alright. It was no use talking about new members and selling literature, they had tried all that before the Agent was born. As for the young 'uns they were hopeless; they took no notice of the Local Labour Party. Mugford Parva was a very peculiar place. The secretary said, "R. Thass right." Thereupon the meeting closed.

Bob poured out his suffering heart to me the next day. I advised him to consult the International Association of Gerontologists, but he says he would sooner go to Birkrock.

Should we have compulsory voting?

ON the agenda of the Labour Party Annual Conference was a resolution asking a future Labour Government to introduce compulsory voting at both parliamentary and local government elections.

It is likely that the sponsors of the resolution had in mind the system which exists in Australia in commonwealth and state elections, but not in local elections.

This system is not strictly compulsory voting, if an elector does not vote he is fined: even in Australia an elector cannot be *compelled* to vote if he does not wish to do so.

In the 1951 General Election in this country a poll of 82.6 per cent was secured on an old register and, as those who did not vote were not subject to penalties, this result can be regarded as a vindication of the voluntary system, under which persuading electors to go to the poll is regarded as one of the chief functions of the political parties.

It is true that in the 1951 local elections the percentage poll was only 45.1 per cent, but in Australia compulsory voting does not apply in local elections.

The point about our existing system is that the vote is regarded as a right which can be exercised as the elector wishes, and not as a duty which he must undertake for fear of incurring a penalty.

It is not without significance that in Australia the number of spoilt papers is high, and in the 1949 Commonwealth elections for the Senate the figure was 11 per cent and for the House of Representatives it was 2 per cent. In the Western Australia State elections where there was a 91 per cent poll, of the 192,225 votes recorded no fewer than 5,028 votes were 'informal', spoilt papers in our language.

Even if compulsory voting were desirable it is doubtful if a practical system could be operated in this country. In Australia where electorates are small it should be reasonably easy to deal with offenders, but in Britain with an electorate of over 30,000,000 it would be a most difficult job.

Another resolution calls for the aboli-

tion of plural voting in local government elections.

No person can vote twice in a Parliamentary election, but a person who occupies as owner or tenant (in Scotland owner or occupier as tenant) land or premises of a yearly value of not less than £10, in a local government area *other than the one in which he resides* can be registered as a non-resident local government elector.

This means that a person may have two local government votes, one as a resident and one as an occupier or tenant, but these two votes cannot be exercised in elections for the same local authority.

A businessman having premises in a big city can only vote once in the local government elections in that city even if he lives there. If, however, he lived in an adjacent local authority area he would be able to vote in the local government elections there as well as in the local elections in the city.

BUSINESS PREMISES VOTE

This business premises vote used to be much greater than it is now, included spouses and was not confined to local elections. There were 114,613 non-resident voters registered in 1953, not many in a total electorate of over 30,000,000.

Apparently, the Labour Government which was responsible for the 1948 and 1949 Representation of the People Acts saw a clear distinction between voting for a Member of Parliament and voting for a local authority.

In the first, the principle of one man one vote is laid down. In the second, it is expected that a person who pays rates to a local authority has an interest in the administration of that authority and so may exercise one vote in the election of councillors.

POSTAL VOTING

A pamphlet giving full details of postal and proxy voting. A leaflet designed for distribution.

THE POSTAL VOTE (12-page pamphlet)
One copy 4d.; 12 copies 1/8; 50 copies 5/-

POSTAL VOTING (2-page leaflet)
10/- per 1000 copies Both post free

THE LABOUR PARTY — PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

MAKE UNION AFFILIATION PAY

by P. Cavanaugh

LOOKING through a number of Constituency Labour Party financial statements I was surprised at the very small sum of money they received from trade union branches in the way of affiliation fees.

A glance at the rules of these parties brought to light the considerable variation in the affiliation fees that exists, from as little as 1d. per member per annum to 6d. For most the figure was 2d., and has been so for twenty years, or more.

With present-day costs of maintaining an efficient organisation it is obvious that this figure is too low. A circular letter costs 1½d. in postage alone, and in many instances a branch affiliation fee does not cover the cost of informing its delegates of the ordinary meetings of the party General Committee.

I am not suggesting that we must necessarily look at the issue purely from an economic standpoint, and I am well aware of the assistance trade union branches give in other ways, such as grants to their members when they are contesting local government elections and donations to parliamentary election funds.

But any affiliation fee which is still the same as it was in 1939 is obviously in need of revision to bring it more in line with the realities of the present day.

The usual argument put up is that any increase in affiliation fees will bring a reduction in the number of members on which the branch affiliates, that is to say if a branch affiliates on 100 members at 2d. it will only affiliate on 50 members if the fee is raised to 4d.

No doubt this will happen in a few cases, but overall, I am confident that the trade union branches will see the necessity for an increased affiliation fee and will pay it without reducing the number of members affiliated.

POLITICAL FUND

The political funds of many trade unions are controlled at national or regional level. For many branches it is often only a matter of deciding the number of members on which to affiliate, forwarding this information and the amount of the affiliation fee to the appropriate officer of the union, who in turn will remit

the affiliation fees to the constituency party.

The manner of approach to the question of increasing the fees is important. If you have decided your fee is too small, don't just put an item on the agenda of your annual meeting providing for an amendment to the particular rule.

Sound your prominent trade union members first. Point out to them the increased costs of postage, printing, paper and other materials necessary for the efficient running of the organisation.

Follow this up with a letter to each trade union branch on similar lines. Make it a personal letter to each branch, not just another circular which will look the same as every other communication you send.

In the July issue of the *Labour Organiser* Victor Feather wrote about the suspicion among trade unionists that they were being frozen out. This article immediately provoked replies from party agents and secretaries giving examples of unsuccessful attempts to interest the branches in their respective localities.

Completely opposite points of view, you might say. That may be so, but at least it shows that both sides realise trade union branches are an important part of the local Labour movement.

Some parties have a very good relationship with their affiliated organisations. This has not been built up overnight, but by a steady process of getting them interested in the work of the Party and creating confidence in its organisation locally.

Branch officials wield considerable influence inside their own branch, and it is worth while going out of your way to make contact with them.

Give some consideration to how best you can get to know them personally. Why not arrange a small social function for branch officers and their wives? Nothing very elaborate—get your Member of Parliament, or prospective Parliamentary Candidate, to send out the invitation. They won't all turn up, but those who do will make it worth while.

If you show an interest in them they will show an interest in you. In the long run it will pay dividends, or, rather, affiliation fees.

IT is often forgotten that when a speaker has been engaged for a meeting he should be given all the information he is likely to require to enable him to fulfil the engagement.

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Neglect of this can lead to dangerous situations. Not long ago a Constituency Party, having engaged a speaker for a meeting in a place some 200 miles from his home, contented itself by informing him merely that the meeting would be held in the evening. He received no guidance about the best method of travel; he did not even know the name and address of the hall.

On the day before the meeting it occurred to an officer of the Constituency Labour Party to wonder if the speaker would find the right place at the right time. Luckily it was possible (although only by means of a series of expensive telephone calls) to ensure that the speaker arrived where he was expected.

It is embarrassing for an audience to await a speaker who neither arrives himself nor sends a deputy. The embarrassment may cause wrath. In any case, it is a poor advertisement for the organisers of the meeting and, in turn, for our Party.

When a speaker has been engaged, and the engagement has been confirmed in writing, it is important to settle as early as possible with the speaker the subject or, better still, the exact title of his speech.

This helps the best advertisement to be done. In these days of competing in-

INSTRUCT to avoid

terests, it is just as vital to advertise the subject as the speaker. It is useful if agreement can be reached upon a specially attractive title which can be emphasised on posters and handbills.

Some time before the meeting—let me emphasise again that this should be done at an early date—the speaker must be told the time of the meeting and the name and address of the hall. He must also be told the name and, if any, the special distinctions of the chairman of the meeting.

A copy of the agenda must be sent to him. Indeed, all the details just mentioned can be included on a copy of the agenda. Thus the speaker will know what may be called the mechanics of the meeting.

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However near the meeting is to the speaker's home, or however far from it, he should be told precisely what train, bus, or other form of public transport, he must catch to reach the meeting and to get wherever he has to go afterwards. If he is travelling by car, he should be given some information about the most convenient route to take.

Moreover, if accommodation at a hotel or hospitality at a private house has been

(FRONT)

VISIT OF Mr. W. SMITH, M.P.

FRIDAY, 1st JUNE

NEWTOWN CONSTITUENCY

Travel : Paddington	..	depart 3. 5 p.m.
Newtown	..	arrive 4.55 p.m.

You will be met at Newtown Station by Mr. Jones, the Party Agent, in car No. DDD111, and conveyed to your hotel. Mr. Jones will take tea with you and convey you to—
Public Meeting at Town Hall, Newtown, 7.30 p.m.

Subject : "Britain and the Bomb"

After the meeting you will be conveyed to your hotel : The Kings Arms, Newtown (Tel. Newtown 123).

Return journey : Newtown	..	depart 9.55 a.m.
Paddington	..	arrive 11.00 a.m.

PEAKERS

mistakes

arranged for him, he must be given the appropriate times and addresses at which to report.

So far I have stated what should be the obvious necessities.

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Many experienced organisers have found that it pays to brief a speaker about the nature of the district in which his meeting is to be held. This also can often save confusion.

There was the case of the speaker who dealt eloquently with the need for an abundant supply of electricity; after his speech (which he sensed was oddly received) he was informed that practically everyone in the district already had electricity.

We must think in terms of *effective* Socialist education. If he knows beforehand the nature of the district, the speaker can shape his speech accordingly.

It is true that if, for example, the speech is to be upon Anglo-American relations, the substance will be the same, wherever the speech is given. But the mode of presentation may with advantage be varied.

A district may have strong historical

ties with the U.S.A. Or it may contain a large number of American troops. Or it may be an important centre of Anglo-American industry. Knowledge of these things may enable the speaker to vivify his address with references to matters within the daily experience of his audience.

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But apart from any special interests the electors may have, the political complexion of the district should be made known to the speaker. This will help him to decide upon the type of argument and illustration the occasion demands.

Let us remember that a speaker is always on a friendly footing with an audience if he shows that he is aware of their local concerns and can link them with the affairs of the wider world. As H. G. Wells once said, "The microscope helps the telescope." And often in remote places I have heard a speaker commended in the words, "He understood us".

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Perhaps I should end with a word about keeping a sense of proportion. The speaker should have all the *necessary* information. It should be briefly put. He should not have a series of letters in which a lifetime's knowledge of a district is distilled. That will simply bemuse him. It may even frighten him into withdrawing from the meeting altogether.

DON ALGER

(BACK)

CONSTITUENCY PARTY INFORMATION

Agent : Mr. J. Jones, Labour Hall, High Street, Newtown (Tel. Newtown 567)

Prospective Candidate .. Mr. E. KELLY

		1950		1951
Voting at General Elections : Labour	..	21,350	.. ..	22,983
Conservative	..	24,229	.. ..	22,999
Liberal ..	..	4,008	.. ..	2,112

Individual Membership : 1950—1,059 : 1951—1,173 : 1952—1,021 : 1953—1,890.

Newtown is a very marginal constituency, which we hope to win for Labour in a straight fight at the next General Election.

1955 REGISTER IS

THE time table for the compilation of the 1955 Register of Electors and that of subsequent years has been altered by the passing of the Electoral Registers Act, 1953, and the consequent R.P. Regulations.

Not only have the dates been altered, but also the dates for Scotland are now the same as those for England and Wales.

TIME TABLE

Qualifying Date	10th October, 1954
Electors Lists published	*28th November, 1954
Last Day for Claims	16th December, 1954
Consideration of Claims by	4th January, 1955
Publication of Register	15th February, 1955

* As 28th November is a Sunday the Electors Lists will be published on the following day—Monday, 29th November, 1954.

It will be noticed that the period for dealing with claims and objections is from the 28th November until the 16th December. This gives four additional days in which to check the Electors Lists and to take steps to ensure that every qualified Labour supporter will be on the Register.

The whole series of Local Government Elections next spring will be fought on the 1955 Register, and it is likely to be the Register in force at the time of the next General Election. It is most important, therefore, that the information which follows should be studied carefully and acted upon at the proper time. You are urged to set up a Committee to review the situation in your area NOW.

QUALIFICATIONS TO BE REGISTERED AS PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS

Qualifying Date

The qualifying date, 10th October, must be borne in mind when considering claims or objections.

A young person whose 21st birthday is after 11th October, and on or before 16th June next, is entitled to be registered. The letter 'Y' is placed before the name and he or she can vote at elections held after 1st October, 1955.

Residential Qualification

A British subject (or citizen of the Republic of Ireland) who is of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity, is entitled to be registered for a parliamentary vote for the constituency and a local government vote for the area in which he resides. A person is of full age the day before his 21st birthday.

Non-Resident Qualification

A person who is occupying as owner or tenant (Scotland—owner or occupying as tenant) any rateable land or premises of a yearly value of not less than £10 can be registered, provided it is in another local government area to the one in which he resides. The letter 'L' is placed before the name, and the entitlement is for local government elections only.

When an elector is not entitled to vote at certain local government elections an additional letter or letters is placed in front of his name:

C—not entitled to vote in county council elections. (D—in Scotland)

R—not entitled to vote in rural district elections

Merchant Seamen (including deep-sea fishermen, trawlermen, etc.)

Provision is made on the official form (Form A), from which the Register is compiled, for those engaged in the Merchant Service. The letters 'MS' should be inserted before the name. The Registration Officer will, on receipt of the form, forward R.P.F.

EXT ELECTION KEY

10A to the person so entered to enable him to be treated as an absent voter and for the appointment of a proxy.

Service Qualifications

Persons entitled to a Service qualification are (a) members of the Forces; (b) Crown Servants employed abroad; and (c) the wives of members of the Forces or Crown Servants if residing or about to reside outside the United Kingdom to be with their husbands. The following forms are obtainable from the unit, ship, Government Department, or local Registration Office. A declaration bearing a date not later than 10th October, but received too late for the declarant's name to be included in the Lists, will be treated as a claim if received by the E.R.O. on or before the last day for making claims.

Member of H.M. Forces	...	...	...	...	...	F/Vote/33
Wife of above residing or about to reside abroad with him						
(within six weeks)	...	...	...	...	...	F/Vote/34
Crown Servant abroad	...	...	...	...	...	Estavote
Wife of above residing or about to reside abroad with him						
(within six weeks)	...	...	...	...	...	Estasuffrage

When the Electors Lists are published, they should be checked to ensure that all our members and supporters are included, and any errors corrected. The checking of Lists and the making of claims must take place within the prescribed period. As 28th November next falls on a Sunday, the Electors Lists may be available on the previous day, and enquiry should be made to discover if it is possible for them to be collected on the morning of that day, to save valuable time. It must be pointed out, however, that the last day for publication will be Monday, 29th November.

The Electors Lists

The Electors Lists consist of:

- List A—a copy of the current Register of the unit.
- List B—newly qualified electors.
- List C—those no longer qualified.

In cases where it has been found that omissions or mistakes occurred in the current Register it will be necessary to check List B to see that these have been remedied. Those who were entitled to vote by post because they moved *into* your area while registered in another, should also be entered in List B. Those who had a postal vote because they had removed from your area will now be in List C.

Young voters whose 21st birthday is after 11th October, 1954, and on or before 16th June, 1955, should also be included in List B and the letter 'Y' placed before their names. They will be able to exercise their vote after 1st October, 1955. Those who previously had a 'Y' prefixing their names will now have it deleted.

A thorough check of List C must be made to prevent names of supporters being deleted from the Register in error and to know how many have either moved or no longer qualified for that area.

Claims

Secretaries are advised to obtain a supply of forms R.P.F.5 (R.P.F.5/1 for Scotland). These can be obtained from the Registration Officer. A duplicated form to the like effect can be used. Application can be made on behalf of a claimant and the declaration worded accordingly, though it is better for the claimant to forward his own form whenever possible.

Objections

Objection to the inclusion of a name or names on the List can be made during the period for claims. R.P.F.6 is the form to be used. In these cases it will be necessary to state the grounds of objection and include the registration unit and the name and

address of the person making the objection. Consideration of all claims and objections must be completed by 4th January. A person wishing to appeal against the decision of the Registration Officer must give him notice of such appeal when the decision is made or within 14 days. In the case of objection the person objected to must also be notified. The grounds of appeal must be specified.

Free Copies of Lists

Constituency Labour Party Secretaries are advised to give notice to the Registration Officer, in advance, the address to which the Lists are to be delivered. Four copies of Lists B and C are available, two of which can be single-sided. Should there be any difficulty, or delay, please get in touch with your Regional Office.

The Register of Electors

The Register of Electors, once published, becomes a statutory document, and no additions, deletions or alterations can be made. It is, therefore, essential that full advantage is taken of the extended period in which claims can be made. In these days of keenly contested elections, every vote counts. Attention to this very important phase of Party organisation can result in an increased vote—and in many cases, victory.

Woolwich West Recruits 800

WOOLWICH West has just completed an outdoor campaign which I consider has been very successful.

The campaign was a very simple one, but it was carefully planned. It commenced on May 15th and ended on August 29th. There were two short breaks in July and August. Its purpose was to make members for the Party. I discussed the campaign in the first instance with the prospective candidate, who gave me a list of over forty dates on which he was prepared to be in any ward; these included eight Sunday mornings.

One of our borough councillors is in charge of the public address equipment and I consulted him to find out the dates on which he was free. I then called a meeting of ward secretaries and all the dates were allocated to wards on a fair basis—the loud speaker being allocated mainly to wards which are made up of council estates.

I had copies of the programme duplicated which gave the day, date, ward, meeting place and time. A number of these were circulated to each ward, Women's Section and to the League of Youth branch. The campaign was timed to start immediately the May ward meetings were over.

The only literature used was a leaflet which was put out in the area visited with the loudspeaker. This had a picture of

the prospective candidate, gave some information about him and stated the approximate time he would be in the road. We also made selective use of the Head Office membership leaflet *Dear Neighbour*. We always use our own membership forms which have a tear-off receipt on the bottom for the first subscription.

When the campaign ended on August 29th the total of new members enrolled was over 800.

The number of new members enrolled is, I think, an achievement because Woolwich West already has nearly 6,000 paying members. I decided, in view of the success of the campaign, to extend it and as I write the number of new members is now well over 900. The target I set the constituency was 1,200, and that figure will be achieved.

The League of Youth played an important part and two League members have enrolled about 100 members each.

It may be imagined that hosts of helpers were on the doorstep, but this was not so. The average on each occasion was about eight.

This campaign has also served another useful purpose besides recruiting members. The prospective candidate has met and talked with so many electors that he now has a very full knowledge of the various problems which concern them. That, I am sure, is a good thing.

Also, we know that some Tories have changed their views and many more are wavering. I believe that provided a really united lead is given the 'marginals' will support the Labour Party policy next time.

Agents Get Salary Rise

ADJUSTMENT'S BOARD AWARD

AT the end of August the National Agent informed Labour Parties employing full-time agents that the Adjustments Board had agreed to an alteration of the salary scales.

The Adjustments Board is representative of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents and the National Executive Committee, and it has existed for many years, with the sanction of the Annual Conference, as the body concerned with governing the relations between the agents and their employers.

As the National Executive Committee does not employ the agents, and as there are almost as many employing bodies as there are agents, the National Executive Committee members on the Adjustments Board endeavour to represent the interests of the employing bodies, just as the union representatives endeavour to represent the interests of their agent members.

In this, the Adjustments Board is similar to the negotiating bodies which exist in industry and which fix wages and lay down conditions of employment on behalf of workers employed by many firms.

The salary scale agreed upon by the Adjustments Board is a minimum scale and employing parties may pay in excess of it if they wish.

In pre-war days the salary scale was £260 per annum rising in a period of five years to £310. During the war, war bonuses totalling £65 per annum were granted and in 1946 these bonuses were consolidated and a new salary scale, starting at £325 per annum and rising by five annual increments of £15 to £400, was fixed. As from January 1948 a new salary scale was agreed upon of £400 per annum rising by three annual increments of £25 to £475 per annum.

In 1952 not only was there an increase in salary, but a new principle was introduced, the principle of grading. It was agreed by the Adjustments Board that there should be two grades of agency and a special class. The salary for Grade 1, to which most agencies belong, was £450

per annum, rising by three annual increments of £25 to £525, and for Grade 2, £525 per annum rising by two annual increments of £25 to £575.

The starting salary of the special class was £600 per annum, with further increments by local agreement.

Claims for higher grading are made in the first place by the union and are decided by the Adjustments Board. There are at present eighteen agencies in Grade 2 and four in the special class.

The new salary scale, which applied from the 1st July last, is Grade 1: £450 per annum rising by four annual increments of £25 to £550; Grade 2: £550 per annum rising by two annual increments to £600, and a starting salary for the special class of £625 per annum.

In addition the Adjustments Board agreed to the introduction of a service award. On reaching the maximum salary of his grade an agent begins to qualify for the service award. If he then stays four years in the same post he is entitled to an additional £25 per annum and a further four years in the same post will bring him a second service award of £25 per annum.

This means that if a man after four years service in any number of posts reaches the maximum of Grade 1, and then serves four years continuously in the same post he will receive £575 per annum. If four years later he is still in the same job his salary will be £600 (at the end of a total of twelve years' service).

The two service grants compensate an agent for continuing employment in the same post and not seeking employment at a higher rate of pay. An agent who breaks his continuous employment to take another post loses his claim to the service award, though he starts to qualify for it again immediately on taking up his new post.

According to Head Office records 159 agents are entitled to the new fourth annual increment of £25 and 38 agents are entitled to the first service award, and fourteen to the first and second service award immediately.

One Successful Method

Mr. John Taylor, Member of Parliament for West Lothian, previously Labour Party Regional Organiser, was for many years a full-time agent. He warns against dogmatism in matters of organisation.

NEARLY thirty years ago I wrote my first series of articles for the *Labour Organiser*.

What I then lacked in years and experience was more than compensated by unshakeable self-confidence and a welter of theory. Although I had been a practising Labour agent only a few months, I wrote with complete assurance, advising agents of repute, standing and varied experience how to organise their constituencies.

Looking back, I can see that the organisation in my own constituency was nothing to write home about. Yet I had as many blind spots as there were weaknesses. To me it was as perfect as any organisation based on voluntary workers could possibly be.

Ideas were prolific. One after another they were tested. Incredibly patient and long-suffering voluntary workers operated them with resignation. If the slightest success attended any one of them, off went an article to the *Labour Organiser*, patronisingly advising all other agents to adopt this inspired new method, perfected by the Master Mind.

★ ★ ★

Eventually, the joint operations of time and experience convinced me of two sobering facts. The first is that in political organising there is nothing new under the sun. Sooner or later it is discovered that the marvellous method which is fondly cherished as one's own brain-child was used in Keir Hardie's Mid-Lanark campaign in eighteen-ninety something, or that it was discarded in favour of a better method twenty years ago by old Bill So-and-so when he was agent at Huddersford.

The second is that, in writing these "See-what-I've-done" articles, the tendency is to assume that every constituency is exactly the same as one's own and that a few minor adaptations will make one's own reasonably successful system equally effective anywhere from the Scilly Isles to the Island of Unst.

A working knowledge of 134 constituencies covering most of the ground between these Ultima Thules persuaded me that there is not one successful method for these constituencies, but 134. One each.

For the successful agent the trick is to find out what 'goes' in his or her own constituency and to work that way, no matter what spectacular, 'scientific' method is being toted around the summer schools and demonstrated in agent-saturated by-elections. If your own system works in your own constituency; if it produces votes and members, it is as 'scientific' a system so far as you are concerned.

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Take the simple and familiar example of poll cards. There are some constituencies in which the entire polling-day organisation is based on the poll card. The electors use them faithfully and obediently, according to the instructions. They treat them with careful respect, placing them safely on the mantelpiece when they arrive, carrying them trustfully to the polling place, consulting them as they vote and handing them correctly to the proper "representative at the gate".

Indeed, so well trained are such electorates that many will refuse to vote if, by some mischance, their poll-card has not arrived. "How can I vote?" they ask. "My voting papers haven't come!"

But there are other constituencies in which the electors treat poll cards with contempt, throwing them into the fire, dismissing them as just another piece of electioneering propaganda.

No amount of training or patient perseverance will convince them that a poll card is a useful and sensible part of the machinery of a democratic election. They jolly well know how to 'exercise' their vote and require no instructions from anyone, even from the candidate they have firmly decided to support.

I suggest that the agent who insists on the issue of poll cards in the latter type of

constituency is wasting time, money and the efforts of voluntary workers who are likely to be later disillusioned if not annoyed when they find that all their painstaking work has been of no practical use.

Similarly with window cards. There are areas in which window cards suddenly appear in almost every window. This is one of the several mysteries of electioneering. One day there is scarcely a card to be seen throughout the constituency. Next day, there they are, all over the place.

★ ★ ★

Their appearance does not coincide with their delivery by canvasser or through the letter-box. Usually, they have been delivered some days earlier. Some uncanny and universal urge sweeps over them simultaneously at a definite moment. Political loyalties must be proclaimed forthwith to the world in general and to those miserable old Tories across the street in particular.

Elsewhere, perhaps in the neighbouring constituency or even in parts of the same constituency, not a card is to be seen. No arguments, however persuasive, will induce the residents to 'show their colours'. Attempts to break down resistance are countered with blunt and emphatic refusal or with embarrassed rejection. "How I vote is my own affair," say some. "The ballot is secret and how I use it is no one else's business."

Others explain, apologetically, that their neighbours are Tories and they manage to keep on good terms by never discussing politics. There is no point in offending them by shoving our own politics down their throat, and so on. A perfectly reasonable and understandable attitude.

It is clearly good policy to supply plenty of window cards to the 'card-prone' area—one for every street-facing window if they will absorb them. It is obviously wasteful to send them to the resistance area unless they are asked for by especially enthusiastic supporters.

The following case history is not uncommon. Agent A moves from constituency B to constituency C in another part of the country. He has been fairly successful in constituency B. Labour votes and membership have increased during his incumbency there. On arrival in constituency C, what does A do?

He proceeds at once to operate the methods and practices of constituency B. He does not take the time or trouble to

study his new constituency, the number and quality of its voluntary workers, the effectiveness or otherwise of its methods or the prejudices and preferences of its electors. When he encounters methods differing from those of his old constituency, he condemns them forthwith, scorning them as old-fashioned and 'unscientific'.

He has an irritating habit of saying, "That's not how we did it in Oldborough. In Oldborough we had a much better system." He harps on this theme with a flow of detailed reminiscences. His new colleagues listen at first with polite disinterest, then with frank boredom and finally with ill-concealed exasperation: "If that man mentions Oldborough once more," they say to each other, "I'll scream in his face!"

Convinced that he is modernising and streamlining the organisation, he insists on imposing a system which is strange to his workers and alien to the temperaments and customs of the electors. He brushes aside all preferences for established methods as examples of local pig-headedness. Resistances are building up. He is beginning to complain of lack of co-operation. He won't last long in constituency C.

Now constituency C had never had a full-time agent until he was appointed. There was considerable opposition to an appointment in the first place. Those who beat it down and who campaigned for the agency are becoming dispirited. Those who opposed it are going around chanting the 'What-did-I-tell-you' chorus. When his appointment ends, the Party will refuse to consider a successor. It will probably be years before they are in the mood to repeat what they will regard as an unfortunate experiment.

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Yet agent A is a perfectly good agent. He is keen on his job and is a hard-working and conscientious chap. Ironically, he transferred from constituency B to constituency C to gain a wider and more varied experience. His only mistake has been to ignore the facts that constituencies have experience as well as agents and that electors in this island will not conform to a single pattern.

For that very reason we all dislike generalisations. Yet this one must be submitted: Every competent agent will get his own way in the end if he studies his local material in the beginning.

Around the Regions

HORSHAM APPOINTS AN AGENT

THE other Sunday history was made at Horsham — Harry Roberts of Doncaster was appointed Labour's first full-time agent for the Constituency.

Few who live in Southern England have failed to visit the prosperous market town of Horsham. For many it is the gateway to happy holidays at Brighton, Worthing or Bognor Regis. Today I write of other places in the Horsham Division.

In your urgent rush from city to sea-side, you have never paused to slack your thirst at the 'Foresters Arms', Kirdford. More's the pity. Within its cosy bar parlour they speak with pride of the new village hall opened only a few months ago: Kirdford is a small place; 550 electors, but 104 electors are members of the Kirdford Local Labour Party.

A glance at the books of the village hall shows the important place which the Local Labour Party occupies in the social life of this hamlet. Since the hall was opened last year, 17 dances have been organised — 16 by the Local Labour Party.

Now look at the income side of the ledger account. Received from the Local Labour Party since January, 1953, for rents, £23. Received from the Stoolball Club for rents, £1. As Charlie Court, former stalwart of the Deptford Labour Party said, "In our village if anything wants doing—the Labour Party does it."

There are other village Labour Parties in the Horsham Division, all making a contribution to the pattern of life in rural Sussex—parties with country-sounding names like Fernhurst, Langley Green, Lodsworth, Midhurst, Northchapel, Petworth, Rudgwick, Ruspur, Southwater, Warnham and Wisborough Green.

For generations the citizens of the sleepy little town of Crawley were content to bask in the rural beauty which surrounded them, content to ruminate in its mellow inns, content to nibble in its *Olde Worlde* tea shops.

The Labour Government set up the

Crawley Development Corporation. Crawley had a population of less than 10,000 in 1948, by March 1953 it had reached more than 15,000 and it is now increasing at a rate of more than 4,000 a year. Thousands of new homes have been built, new schools, churches, chapels and factories have been erected.

London firms are moving their enterprises, and up to 90 per cent of their staffs to Crawley. Every effort is being made to spread the risk of slumps, so on the Industrial Estate we find a wide diversity of employment.

Crawley now has more than thirty modern industries. A list of its products reads like the catalogue of an industrial fair: Acid-resisting cement, air infiltration plant, pharmaceuticals, detergents, mica processing, switchgear, hearing aids, varnishes, confectionery, clock cases, plastics, ladders, nickel iron alloys, water taps, and brewing equipment.

Twenty-seven new factories are completed and employ 3,560 workers. Seven more factories are in the course of construction and will employ another 1,904 workers. Negotiations are completed for a further seven factories and these will employ yet another 800 workers.

Soon the Tory fortress of Horsham will fall to Labour. Last May six Labour candidates out of nine were elected to the rural district council and five Labour members now sit on the Crawley parish council.

Let it not be imagined that Harry Roberts has accepted a sinecure. New households are now arriving at the rate of 500 each quarter of the year. For many it is the first real home. For most a garden is a novelty to be tended and relished. Experience shows that six months elapse before new tenants take interest in local affairs or party membership.

Rents are high and one in every three mothers of young families must find employment to balance the household budget. Soon more than 2,000 of the mothers will be engaged at the factories. How much time can these mothers give to Labour Party activity? Thirty of every

hundred of the new arrivals are children of school age or under, in fact eighteen per cent are under five years of age. Father must help with the home chores if mother works at the factory.

The inflated rents are caused in part by the burdensome interest rates imposed by the Tory Government. Most men must work overtime to help pay these high rents and this alone presents a problem to the Labour Agent.

As the 'bulge' of young children reach adolescence, thousands of youngsters may flood the local labour market. School building is not keeping up with demands.

Harry Roberts will find great joy in facing the many problems which are common to Development areas throughout Britain. Somehow, supporters from many parts of greater London and the South must blend with rural workers in the great task of building an active and well-informed Labour Party in the Horsham constituency.

If hard work counts for anything, Horsham will soon be won!

Southern

F. SHEPHERD

Annual Conference

LIKE many members of the Party I had little idea of the work involved in completing the arrangements for the Annual Conference. In 1948 I had my first baptism and began to appreciate the huge number of detailed tasks which required considerable thought and goodwill on the part of a host of people with differing interests and points of view.

There is the manager of the hall who, although anxious to help, is rightly concerned with the protection of the newly-decorated walls and fittings; the telephone representatives each of whom has his own difficulties; the B.B.C. who are concerned with adequate accommodation behind the scenes for their recording and editing tasks; the News Film people with their requirements of suitable stands for their lamps and cameras; the press who must be catered for in large numbers in terms of seating space, writing rooms and telephone facilities; the ancillary organisations which require space for exhibition stands; the catering arrangements to ensure that those interminable cups of char and coffee are available and without which no conference could run smoothly

nor any of the important questions be adequately discussed.

Add these human factors to the task of making the facilities available fit the conference and you have the makings of a civil war.

That is not the end of the story for much thought has to be given to the social needs of the delegates and the various functions which are held for their benefit and/or edification.

The town's conference officer is a man of the utmost importance. Apart from arranging the details of the facilities which his corporation is anxious to provide, he has to continually occupy the role of mediator, guide, friend and counsellor to the representatives of the many interests which are competing for halls, rooms and other means of presenting their objectives in the best possible way.

The task comprises a unique combination of human factors, and limitations of space, out of which must come a stage upon which all the prima donnas, whether they appear on the platform, rostrum, backstage, or on a stall, can play their parts.

Such is the conference and I can only hope that the delegates will give a silent word of thanks to the many unseen planners whose sole desire is to serve. Chaos becomes order only as a result of the most unselfish demonstration of compromise and goodwill which, where fully appreciated, would set the tone for the discussion and decisions affecting humanity the world over.

North Eastern

J. T. ANSON

County Elections

AS in other regions, so in this: we are going ahead with arrangements for the county council elections in 1955.

When the Regional Council was formed we decided to maintain the Federations of Labour Parties and this policy has paid dividends in several ways, especially in connection with county council elections.

A Federation of Labour Parties exists in each county, except Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely. To cover these three we have a Co-ordinating Committee which deals with the elections. It does not, however, deal with policy matters because that is regarded as the

affair of each C.L.P. in the respective administrative counties.

The federations are now busy securing suitable nominees, for we are all convinced that if in 1952 there had been more Labour candidates in favourable electoral divisions we should have captured the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Norfolk County Councils and increased the strength of Labour Groups considerably in the other counties also.

For the counties specified the figures speak for themselves. In 1952 we contested 41 of 70 seats in Bedfordshire and secured 29; 39 of 66 in Hertfordshire and won 24; and 33 of 58 in Norfolk and won 26.

With many more suitable candidates and better strategy we hope to improve our position considerably in 1955 and each federation is doing its utmost to realise this aim.

The matter of policy is also receiving attention and in each county Labour candidates will fight on a well considered and timely programme.

In this matter there is consultation and co-operation between County Council, Labour Groups and federations. This desirable connection has increased during the last few years and at the moment it is better than ever. Such a relationship is essential to good policy making and it is facilitated and encouraged by the Regional office.

In 1952 the Essex Federation of Labour Parties prepared a set of excellent notes for candidates and others. Thus everyone had an opportunity of being well informed on policy and administrative matters. This was immensely helpful and it is intended to do it again in 1955.

On the organising side the Regional organisers maintain effective co-operation with all concerned, especially with full-time agents who have the highly responsible job of planning, initiating and co-ordinating activities in each electoral division where the contest takes place.

Conferences and consultations with full-time agents are held in each county long before the elections begin. These are arranged by the Regional Organiser under the auspices of the Regional Council and much benefit is derived from the discussion which takes place on all the election matters which naturally arise at conferences and consultations of this kind.

None of us can tell in precisely what political and economic circumstances we

shall have to contest the county council elections, but as far as can be seen a supreme effort should yield greater success than ever before.

Eastern

W. T. YOUNG

No Rest

JULY and August, looked upon by some people as a holiday period and providing a chance to get away from the old routine and enjoy a break by the sea or in the country, are a blessing to us in a different kind of way.

There is a general falling off of meetings and it gives us a chance to review the position of the Party; to catch up on our administration, and to do some planning for the busy months towards the end of the year.

In Devon, we managed to get in before the holidays started, with an excellent conference of constituency Labour party officers, prospective candidates and agents where we had a very thorough review of the Party organisation and set the programme for activity and organisation in the pre-election period. We produced quite a volume of interesting material, which those present have taken away with them, and, we hope, are tackling at constituency level. We are going to repeat the process in Truro on the 18th September.

We have been looking at the all-important and much neglected question of trade union support and liaison. We are going into Devon and Cornwall on the 16th and 17th October with trade union consultations, when Mr. D. T. Jones, M.P., will be the speaker, and in preparing for these consultations, we have collected a mass of very important information concerning branches, affiliated and non-affiliated to the Labour Party. Indeed, the information we have accumulated before the actual consultations more than justifies the holding of the consultations. Trade union district secretaries have been extremely helpful.

The N.A.L.S.O. canvassing team are now in the region. They are visiting the constituencies of Stroud & Thornbury, Gloucester, Taunton and Falmouth & Camborne—four highly important marginal constituencies. Their visit has been on the planning board for the past couple of months.

During the last week in August they

were engaged in the picturesque and charming Stroud valley, and I guess the students in the team enjoyed the change. Anyway, the weather has been kind to them. My colleague, Emrys Jones, has been working full time with the team, and so has the Party Agent in the constituency.

First reports show an enormous amount of support. It also shows that many of the people canvassed have, at some time or other, been members of the Party, but owing to inability to consolidate the membership, collections have lapsed, and contacts have ceased.

An important part of the canvassing team's work is to commence, or improve, the marked register. Valuable information about postal voting is being obtained, and if the work of the canvassing team is closely followed up by the constituency and local Labour parties, the information can be used to great advantage.

The last two months have also been a busy time for County Federations of Labour Parties, and we are delighted to say that they, after months of consideration, have put on paper their draft proposals for the county election programmes for next year. I think perhaps this is the

earliest start we have ever made in this direction. County council candidatures and the seats to be contested are also under close consideration.

We have now filled all our vacancies for prospective parliamentary candidates. We must not be too boastful about this, because the inevitable breaks will take place, but it is a good thing to see the picture complete.

We have had quite a crop of interesting regional conferences on 'A German Contribution to European Defence' and 'The Housing Repairs and Rents Bill'—six in all.

And now our parties, in consultation with Labour groups on local authorities, are busily engaged in planning their Information Bureaux and Advice Centres on the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill.

Aye! On the face of it, July and August are holiday months, but behind the scenes, there has been a load of activity of a planning and preparatory character, the beneficial result of which will be found in the early autumn, which is rapidly approaching.

South Western

E. V. REES

Reasons why



Lots of people ask how it happens that news-stands with stacks of other papers often have no **DAILY HERALDS** left by 9 o'clock.

One big reason is the large number of "Heralds" bought by people who go to work early in the day. Another is that so many regular readers have it sent home or "saved" by the newsagent.

Don't forget it helps the newsagent to know in advance that you insist on the

DAILY HERALD

Labour's Liveliest Paper

Political Conflict

THE London County Council is generally recognised as occupying a special place in the local government system of the country. In fact, by reason of its size, scope and tradition, it has come to a position which is somewhere between local and national government.

This is evidenced by the importance which has always been attached by the major political parties to the control of the London County Council. It would be little far from the truth, if at all, to say that from the first election of the L.C.C. every contest has had the character of a first-class political conflict. It is a sober statement of fact that the taking of control by Labour of the London County Council in March 1934 was a landmark in Labour's history.

The servicing of this great authority with an adequate supply of suitable candidates and members is a big responsibility which the Labour Party in London has shouldered well for many years. We now have a very large party on the council, many of whom have to give much more than spare-time service to the work. For

the Leader of the Council, the Chairmen of Committees and other principal members, the work is really almost full-time.

It will be readily understood that preparations for the coming elections have been a chief preoccupation of the London Office for some time past and the 43 constituencies are now engaged in the selection of candidates. This process is interesting in that it follows, in almost every way, the process of selecting parliamentary candidates and is entirely unlike any of the methods used for the selection of local government candidates.

By the end of November we may expect to have almost completed the selection of candidates and early in the New Year the detail of planning will be under way throughout the constituencies.

This campaign is likely to be somewhat special. It seems probable that it will come before the General Election: it coincides with Labour's 21 years of control: we have a big Party now and we hold some of the seats narrowly. We and the Tories are well aware of the significance of this election in relation to national politics.

London

J. W. RAISIN

(Continued from page 184)

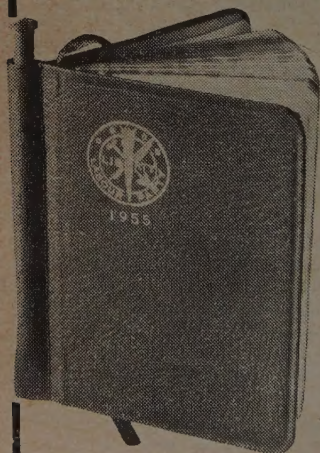
reading out the objects by distributing to the audience duplicated slips with numbered objects on. The question master merely reads out the number. A 'What's My Line' can also be successfully staged.

More and more 'Any Questions?' are becoming the vogue in political propaganda. They do not replace the serious political meeting or lecture, but, with careful planning, can attract an audience in competition with television. There is, furthermore, scope for us to exploit them.

** A copy of the notes referred to in the text will be forwarded if any reader is interested on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope sent to the author at Lansbury Hall, Stamford, Lincs.*

WALES AND N. IRELAND

By law there cannot be fewer than 35 Welsh constituencies and the Northern Ireland constituencies are fixed at 12. This corrects the figures of 25 and 10 given wrongly last month.



DIARY 1955

THE Labour Party Diary for 1955 is now available. Once more it contains an information section packed with useful material for Party Members. Incorporated in the binding is a pencil, a new feature in the 1954 Diary which proved most popular.

The Diary costs 2/6d (by post 2/9d) and there are reduced rates for quantities. Particulars of these rates, together with order forms may be obtained from Labour Publications Department, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.